

**Central Falls School District
Board of Trustees
Minutes**

February 16, 2006

I. Call to Order:

The Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Joseph Faria.

**Present were: Mr. Joseph Faria, Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Ana-Cano Morales
Ms. Mary Lou Perez
Mr. Joel Roseman**

**Absent were: Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado (Excused)
Mr. Gus Silva
Mr. Robert Canavan**

II. Public Comments:

Mr. Joe Travers, a resident of the city, mentioned that he had heard a rumor going around the city about Ms. Liz Legault being called a

racist. Mr. Travers went on to say that he is a colleague of Ms. Legault and that the rumor was both unfair and unfounded. Ms. Legault, according to Mr. Travers, helps all kinds of students in the system and treats everyone the same.

Mr. Travers' comment was to set the record straight that Ms. Legault is not a racist and it does not matter what nationality, color, or ethnicity a person is, Ms. Legault helps everyone.

Mr. Faria thanked Mr. Travers for his comment and said that he could not respond to Mr. Travers' comment because this is the first time he is hearing about this.

III. Approval of minutes:

Mr. Joel Roseman motioned to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cano-Morales and unanimously approved by the Board (4-0)

IV. Schedule of Bills:

Mr. Joel Roseman motioned to approve the schedule of bills. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mary Lou Perez and approved by the Board (4-0).

V. Communication:

Resignations: Ms. Erin Sears, building substitute, Calcutt MS, submitted her letter of resignation effective January 13, 2006.

Ms. Ana Gomes, Interpreter, submitted her letter of resignation effective February 8, 2006.

Retirements: The following staff members submitted letters of retirement:

Judith Marmaras Maloney, 6th grade ESL teacher at Calcutt MS, effective February 16, 2006

Maria Kaczmarek, Title I teacher at Feinstein School, effective June 30, 2006

Mary Lou Perez motioned to approve the retirements and resignations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joel Roseman and so it was voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

VI. Reports:

A. Administration:

Dr. Watkins informed the Board about a grant that was awarded to the

school district by RIDE in the amount of \$15,000. The grant will be used to implement an e-portfolio system at the high school.

Dr. Watkins also informed the Board that several people from the district are continuing to investigate and to identify possible locations that would address the space issues at the high school.

B. Chairperson:

Mr. Faria mentioned that he did not have a report at this time.

C. Other:

Ms. Mary Lou Perez informed the members of the Board that the search to replace the two vacant Board seats yield four responses (letters). Two responses were from parents. Ms. Perez also mentioned that the deadline for submitting letters of interest would be February 17, 2006.

VII. Personnel Matters:

A. Retirements:

Judith Marmaras Maloney, 6th grade ESL teacher at Calcutt MS, submitted her letter of retirement, effective February 16, 2006

Maria Kaczmarek, Title I teacher at Feinstein School, submitted her

letter of retirement, effective June 30, 2006

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Joel Roseman seconded by Ms. Ana Cano-Morales

B. Resignations:

Ms. Erin Sears, Building Substitute at Calcutt MS, submitted her letter of resignation effective January 13, 2006.

Ms. Ana Gomes, Interpreter, submitted her letter of resignation effective February 8, 2006

C. Leave of Absence:

Kathy Kiley, Day Custodian, Central Falls HS, effective January 4, 2006

Monique Jacob, Reform Coach/French Teacher, Central Falls HS, effective February 22, 2006

Kristin W. Hlady, ESL Teacher, Calcutt MS, effective November 1, 2005 until June 30, 2006

A motion to approve by Ms. Ana Cano-Morales seconded by Mr. Joel

VIII. Appointments:

Dr. Watkins recommended that the following appointments be made:

- Wendy Cribb, Grade 1 (ESL teacher), Ella Risk School, effective February 13, 2006.**
- Damian Barbosa, Science/Biology Teacher, High School, effective February 1, 2006.**

Mr. Ana Cano-Morales motioned to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joel Roseman. It was voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

IX. New Business:

A. Instruction Update: The Superintendent updated the Board on where we are now on the NECAP testing which took place in October. She also mentioned that the schools are working very hard trying to implement the new assessment and benchmark system.

B. High School Update: Dr. Watkins mentioned that the committee in charge of the space issue at the high school has been following a timeline and has been making progress. Next week an update

regarding the various locations will be presented to the Board.

C. Update on recommendations from the Annenberg Institute: Dr. Watkins mentioned that a meeting will take place during the first week of March to prioritize the 17 recommendations presented in the Annenberg Report. Mr. Roseman suggested that the Board be informed about when the recommendations will be implemented.

Ms. Ana Cano-Morales inquired about the cost associated with the Annenberg study. Dr. Watkins responded by saying that the study and report were free.

D. By-Laws for the Board of Trustees: Ms. Ana Cano-Morales informed the other Board members that a copy of the By-Laws were included in their packets. She also suggested that the members review the By-Laws and bring any comments or suggestions to the next meeting.

E. By-Laws for the High School-School Improvement Plan: Dr. Watkins thanked Mr. Bob Marchand, Mr. John Kennedy, Mrs. Pat Morris and the administrative team for their hard work in composing the By-Laws for the School Improvement Team.

Mr. Joel Roseman questioned the fact that the document did not clearly specify the minimum number of members it would take to constitute a majority. When asked of Attorney Piccirilli to clarify, Mr.

Piccirilli indicated that it was fine.

Mr. Roseman also inquired if legal counsel had the opportunity to review the document to which Mr. Piccirilli responded 'yes'.

Mr. Joel Roseman commented that this was a wonderful document and a great start.

Mr. Joel Roseman also inquired about the process for selecting School Improvement Team members. Is there any one person who decides who should be members of the team? Who is responsible for recruiting?

Mr. Bob Marchand responded that there is no formal recruiting process. Usually recruiting members is through word of mouth and approaching individuals.

Ms. Ana Cano-Morales suggested that a more formal process should be in place for recruiting members.

A question about parent participation was raised. Dr. Watkins said that invitations to join the School Improvement Team were sent to the parents. Mr. Marchand mentioned that there are one to three parents who attend the School Improvement Team meetings.

Mr. Joel Roseman asked if there should be a person who appoints

people to the team. Mr. Piccirilli responded that it was not necessary.

A teacher at the High School, said that other parents can come to the meeting and that community members were chosen by the administration.

No vote was necessary.

F. Central Falls High School Program of Studies: Dr. Watkins commended the administrators who work hard on program. Any changes or modifications to the Program of Studies will be addressed at the next Board meeting. Mr. Kennedy will have the new academic expectations and other suggestions ready for the next Board meeting. She also said that the new academic expectation will be ready for the next board meeting.

Mr. Joe Faria said that they could not approve something that has certain items missing. Therefore, vote for approval of the High School Program of Studies was postponed until they receive the necessary information.

Mr. Joel Roseman asked if there is any reason why the letter is in two languages and not the whole document.

Mr. John Kennedy answered that the parents received just the letter but not the whole document.

Dr. Watkins said that the individual schedule could be translated but it would be costly.

Ms. Ana Cano-Morales suggested that perhaps district translators could be used to translate the document and therefore significantly reduce the cost of having the document translated by outside sources.

G. Central Falls School District Administrative Policies: Dr. Watkins informed the Board that the Administrative Policies was a draft for their review. She also mentioned that the only change was the medical insurance co-pay.

Mr. Joel Roseman asked if legal counsel had an opportunity to review the document. Dr. Watkins and Mr. Piccirilli responded that the document was reviewed by counsel.

Dr. Watkins also mentioned that principals received the documents today and that the administrators will receive it tomorrow.

Mr. Joel Roseman mentioned that since this is a draft document there is not need to motion for approval of the document.

H. Student Suspension Policy: Dr. Watkins mentioned that the Suspension Policy was for the Board review. It has State

recommendations and will be discussed at the next meeting. This came directly from the Department of Education. We have to select the best practices and recommendations.

Dr. Watkins thanked Arlene Garrison and her team for their hard work on this document.

Attorney Piccirilli said that he would double check the policy.

I. School Improvement Plan: Dr. Watkins distributed the School Improvement Plans to the Board members for their information only and asked them to bring comments at the next meeting. Dr. Watkins also distributed the benchmark assessment for the members to review.

J. Layoff Letters: The revised list of layoff letters was given to the Board.

Dr. Watkins read section by section and said that this list was worked on with the President of the Teacher's Union.

Mr. Joel Roseman motioned to approve. The motion was seconded by Ana Cano-Morales and so it was voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Mr. Joel Roseman asked for the enrollment numbers for the S.E.S after school. Dr. Watkins said we were 50 students short of our goal.

This was verified by Mr. Mario Papitto.

Dr. Watkins said that the committee is meeting in March to address the attendance and tardiness issue at the high school. Dr. Watkins informed the Board that Ms. Manuela Raposo will be at the next meeting to up-date the members on the progress to date.

Mr. Faria asked Colonel Joseph Moran, who was present at the meeting, for an up-date on security at the high school since the placement of the Resource Officer at that school.

Colonel Moran informed the Board that Mr. Rodriguez, the School Resource Officer, is doing a wonderful job and the police department has not had any issues with security at the high school since the placement of the Resource Officer.

X. Executive Session:

At 7:57 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Faria to move to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cano-Morales. A roll call vote was taken and so it was voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Mr. Faria reconvened the public meeting at 8:20 p.m.

XI. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Joel Roseman and seconded by Ms. Mary Lou Perez. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.